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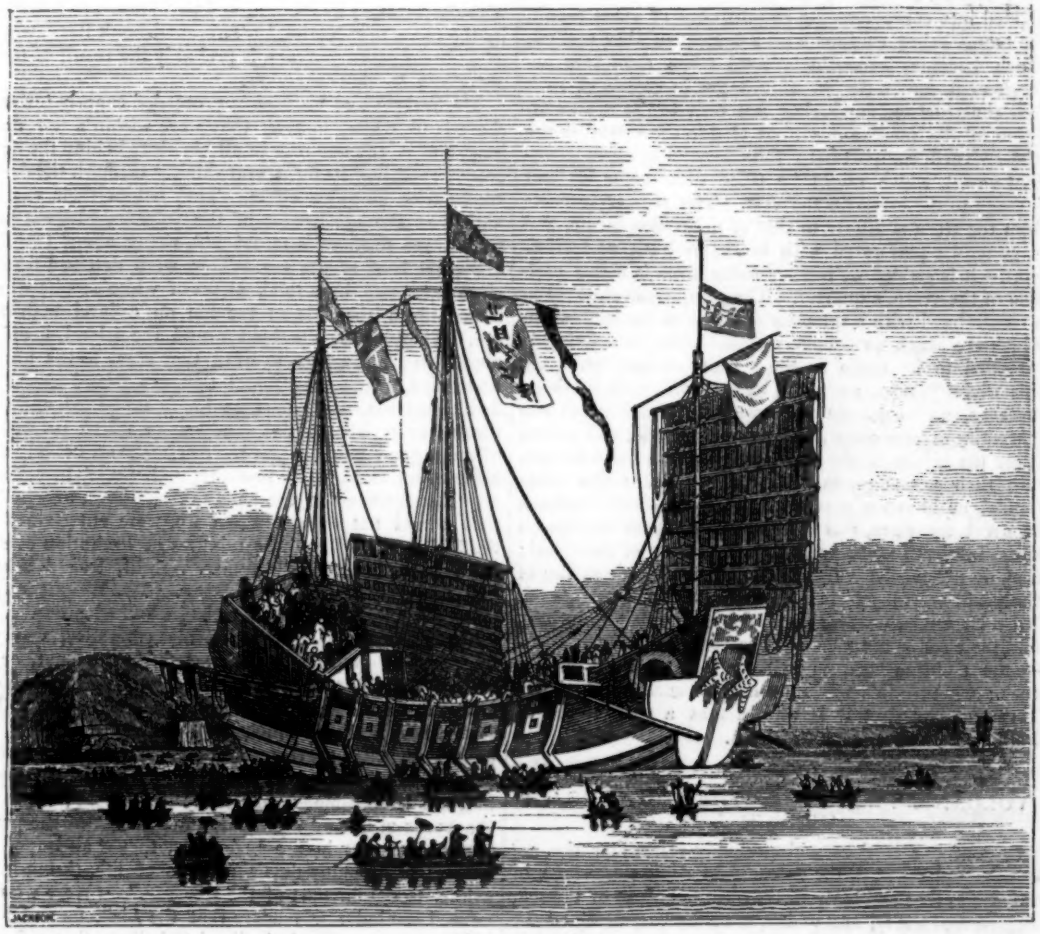
## THE CHINESE JUNK.

*(From a Correspondent.)*



[Chinese Junk.]

Of the many various-shaped vessels in which men peril their lives and fortunes on the boisterous main, those of China, called junks, are among the most remarkable, as well as the most frail. They nevertheless make long voyages in their commercial intercourse with the Phillipine, Molucca, and other islands of the Indian Archipelago, also to Java, the Malay peninsula, and the coasts of Siam and Cochin China. In crossing the China seas, they always take advantage of the monsoons, as from their bulk and light draught of water they are ill calculated to make way against the wind; but these same reasons operate in assisting their velocity with favourable winds. Although they do not appear well adapted to withstand heavy seas, yet the fishermen who abound along the coast, and whose vessels are the only homes for themselves and families, willingly brave very bad weather in the pursuit of their calling—and owing probably to their buoyancy it seldom occurs that any founder.

To the eye they present a large unsightly mass, bearing, however, a singular and striking resemblance to those of our own country about two centuries ago; with a great sheer like a half-moon, and their lofty poops and prows, as may be seen by comparing the above sketch with that of the "Harry Grûce à Dieu." They are frequently 300 and 400 tons, and sometimes as much as 800; their rigging is of the simplest kind, consisting of two or three large masts composed of a single piece of timber, much stouter in proportion than European masts, on which traverse large square sails, which are increased according to the size of the vessel, but in number never exceeding three. These sails are of a reed or straw matting, with stout bamboos at intervals of two to two and a-half feet, extending horizontally along the surface; and to either extremity of these bamboos are attached lines for the purpose of adjusting the sails to the wind, and when it is desired to reduce (or reef) the sails, they are rolled up from the bottom by as many of these spaces as are thought necessary. The anchors are of the rudest construction, the material is always of wood weighted with immense stones lashed about, unprovided with a stock across to insure its

falling on the ground so as to take hold, and it appears to be indebted for the performance of its office more to its *vis inertia* than to its mechanical construction.

Among other peculiarities, is the custom of painting a large eye on each side of the bow, the Chinese very pertinently asking, "How can ship see, suppose he no hab eye?" This practice also obtains at Malta, and in other places, though I believe not for the same reasons as that given in China. Large junks generally carry two long oars projecting forward, having the appearance of the antennæ in insects; their purpose is to accelerate the evolution of turning the vessel round. The hold is divided into compartments by partitions of stout plank, the seams being caulked with a cement of lime and oil, which becomes exceedingly hard when dry—this arrangement may have its advantages in vessels of such frail construction, conducing not only to the good condition of the merchandize, but also to the safety of the whole—each compartment thus becoming an independent vessel, which might be filled with water without damage to the cargo in the rest. The rudder projects from the stern similarly to that of a London barge, and is generally perforated with holes, or built of lattice-work—it is guided by ropes passing from it along each side of the vessel's quarter. The compass is shut up in a small bowl with a quantity of sand in its bottom, in which are stuck perfumed matches when an offering is intended to be made to the "Deity of the Sea." To this divinity, also, an altar, well stored with trinkets, matches, and coloured wax-candles, is erected at the extremity of the cabin, which is very small, and round it are the berths of the crew, just large enough to contain their persons—each berth has a mat and a hard-stuffed cushion for a pillow. They generally embark in great numbers, and all the crew appear to take an equal interest and share in the conducting of the vessel; they do not receive a fixed salary, but have a portion of the profit accruing from the voyage or service performed. All their fluids, water, spirits, &c, are contained in jars, and their solids are packed in cases or pail-shaped tubs, —the Chinese never putting a second head into a cask; whether this arises from ignorance or obstinacy I cannot say, but it is certain that a cask closed at both ends is never seen in China.

## VOLCANIC ISLAND OFF THE SOUTH COAST OF SICILY.

Most of our readers will probably remember the accounts published in the newspapers some time since, of a volcano that suddenly rose from the bosom of the sea, opposite to Sicily, and which, after having attained the size of a considerable island, was rapidly washed away by the waves of the sea from which it rose, and at length totally obliterated.

Through the kindness of John Wright, Esq., an intelligent merchant of Glasgow, who has resided long in Sicily and Naples, we are enabled to give a description of this extraordinary island. Mr. Wright happened to be in Sicily at the time the sub-marine eruption took place, (on the 12th of July, 1831,) and with laudable curiosity determined to repair to the spot. To this end he hired a boat on the 24th of August, (forty-three days after the first appearance of the island,) at Sciacca, on the southern coast of Sicily, which was the town nearest to the volcano, and with an artist, who made drawings on the spot, a physician, and some other Sicilian gentlemen, went in quest of the object that was then exciting so much astonishment and terror.

The party left the shore of Sciacca at nine o'clock in the evening. There was a beautiful bright moon, and they were further favoured by a gentle breeze blowing from land in the direction of the island. After some hours Mr. Wright and his companions went to sleep, leaving the easy care of the boat to the sailors. They were awakened a little before sunrise by explosions that warned them they were near the volcano, and rising, they saw, at a short distance, two hills surmounted by a column of smoke. The curious island of Pantellaria, which has evidently been thrown up in the same manner by a sub-marine eruption, though it is now inhabited and partially cultivated, was seen in the distance to the west. They calculated that they had sailed about thirty-six miles, and that the new island was about equi-distant from Sciacca and Pantellaria. It had arisen from a sand-bank, which was previously covered (though not with deep water) by the sea, and well known to mariners by the name of "Nerita." This sand-bank itself, which extends for some distance, is probably the result of some anterior volcanic convulsion.

Mr. Wright and his friends proceeded eagerly towards the island, when, just as they were within a few oars' length of it, the sun rose in all his glory behind the dark crater, revealing its form, and shining through the dense smoke with singular effect. They began their examination at the north-west of the volcano, where it presented the form of a round hill, rising about 120 feet above the level of the sea. They were deterred from a close approach by a thick cloud of white smoke which issued from the side of the hill on a level with the sea. They rowed the boat round the island, keeping about twenty feet from it, until they came to the north-east point, where they found that the island was some feet higher than at the part previously examined, and that there was a piece of flat sandy shore which seemed to afford a good landing-place. As, however, nobody had hitherto set foot on this new production of nature, some apprehensions as to the safety of so doing, or whether they would not be swallowed up, were entertained by the Sicilians. After some minutes of hesitation one of the sailors, encouraged by Mr. Wright, leaped ashore and found tolerably firm footing. Mr. Wright immediately followed him. The sailor, who had proved himself the most adventurous of his comrades, was yet reluctant to go to any distance from the boat, or to ascend the side of the volcano. Mr. Wright advanced a few steps alone, and perceiving some bright yellow stones that had very much the appearance of gold, he picked up some of them, and cried out, "Run! run! my friends! here is gold! here is gold!" This temptation was irresistible—every man left the boat; or, to use the words of one of the Sicilian gentleman of the party, whose memoranda are before us, they "all leaped on shore, like so many devils careless of life, through the avidity to obtain part of the treasure." (Here we may as well remind our readers that the Sicilians and Neapolitans are commonly inclined to believe that volcanos sometimes throw out gold. In No. 2 of the 'Penny Magazine,' a communication from a correspondent, who was at Naples at the time, informs us that the Neapolitans collected some of the matter ejected by Mount Vesuvius during the great eruption of 1822, expecting to find gold in it.) Mr. Wright's companions were soon undeceived; but finding that they nowhere sank much deeper than the ankle in the sandy soil, they readily followed his example, and climbed up to the ridge of the island at the part where it was lowest. Having reached this point with some difficulty, they stood on the edge of a crater that was flanked on either side by a cone or peak of superior elevation. The form of the crater was very irregular—within it, and forty-five feet below its lip or edge on which they stood, and nearly on a level with the surface of the sea, they saw two small lakes of boiling-water. One of these lakes was about one hundred and fifty feet in circumference, the other not more than thirty. In the first the colour of the water was a light yellow, in the second a reddish-yellow; they bubbled here and there and emitted vapour.

The master of the boat (a Maltese) boldly climbed to the top of the highest cone—an exploit not performed without danger, as on that part the island descended almost perpendicularly to the sea, whose waves had already begun to destroy it, and occasionally carried away large masses at a time.

Mr. Wright and his party returned to the strip of beach where the boat was secured, and were amusing themselves by examining and collecting the curious ashes, lapille, and stones which were there deposited, when a rumbling noise and smoke, accompanied by a most pungent sulphureous smell, arose from the crater, and compelled them to embark. They rowed round to the south-eastern point of the island, where they found a strip of beach like that which they had left, and lying on it, half dead and stupefied, a fine large *pesce-spada*, or sword fish. This they secured and carried back with them to Sciacca, where they found it weighed upwards of sixty pounds English. The fate of the fish must have arisen from its coming too near the hot and contaminated water which on all sides surrounded the island to a greater or less distance. Indeed, when the party started from this point to continue the circumnavigation of the island, they were obliged to keep nearly a mile at sea, to steer clear of a new submarine crater which was forming there, the erruptions from which had changed the colour of the waves from blue to deep yellow, and, for the space of half a mile, made them foam and roar in a fearful manner. Even at the distance at which they kept their boat, the air was so charged with sulphur that it almost suffocated them. As they doubled this, the south-west extremity, they saw immense clouds of smoke, now black, now white, rising as it were from a rent in the bosom of the sea, and attaining an elevation of 2000 feet.

Having gone entirely round the island, they ascertained that its form was circular, and that it was then about two miles in circumference, but evidently diminishing every day. Besides exciting *their* curiosity, it should seem that the novel appearance of this volcano had attracted the curiosity of a turtle dove, for as they landed to examine one point, a bird of that gentle species saluted them from the summit of the island with its melancholy note, and then disappeared.

On the 27th of October, 1831, the steam-packet "Franceso Primo" left Naples expressly to visit this volcano, which the Neapolitans had named "L'Isola Ferdinandea." Among the passengers was an English gentleman, who made some drawings and measurements, and described the island as it then was. From an examination of these, it results that during only two months which had elapsed since Mr. Wright's visit, the island had been reduced to one-seventh of its circumference as measured at that visit. Peaks and elevations had sunk into the sea,—there only remained one, which was much lowered, and no longer retained the appearance of a volcanic crater. This rose in the centre of the island; it was an irregular cone in shape, and composed of fine, heavy, black sand, and very friable scoriæ. All the rest of the island was a plane whose level scarcely surmounted the superficies of the sea. With the least wind the waves washed over all this level part, which, like the hill, was composed of black sand and scoriæ, mixed here and there with fragments of lava that seemed to contain a good deal of iron. No smoke then issued from any part of the island, but wherever the visiters dug a little in the plain, a strong heat with smoke escaped. There, remained, however, a small lake, the waters of which seemed, from the steam resting on their surface, to be still boiling. These waters had changed their colour from yellow to a brownish black. They were ascertained to be sea-waters, mixed with sulphur and other volcanic components, from which they were easily disengaged. In a direction opposite to this small lake, and at the distance of a few feet from th shore of the island as it then was, the sea for a certain space was covered with a bright blue oleous fluid, which produced precisely the same tranquillizing effect that oil does when thrown upon the waves. This fluid was, in all probability, *petroleum*, like that which is found floating on the surface of the Bay of Naples, near the roots of Mount Vesuvius, and in the neighbourhood of most volcanos.

The western side of the central mount was covered with volcanic ashes and saline efflorescence, the white colour of which contrasted in a curious manner with the dingy black hue of all the rest of the cone. As the party from the steam-boat ascended the mount, they found two wooden boards stuck deeply in the sand. On the first of these were recorded the names of two members of the French Academy, Messrs. Jonville and Constant Prevot; and on the second the name of an Austrian brig and the name of her commander, who had all visited the island since Mr. Wright's expedition. It was evident to every body that the flat part of the island was rapidly disappearing, and that when the sea had destroyed this, the mount remaining exposed to the direct fury of the waves could not, from the lightness and friability of the materials which composed it, long resist their attack. It was therefore concluded that in a few months the island would no longer exist; and in fact, a very few months afterwards, when Mr. Wright sailed across this part of the Mediterranean, the sea between Sciacca and Pantellaria was perfectly clear, and there remained not the least vestige of the island. He, however, had not the opportunity of examining to what degree the detrition of the volcano had affected the sandbank beneath.

Whichever way the traveller turns on the coasts of Sicily he meets with melancholy evidences of the tremendous effects of volcanic action. The city of Sciacca itself, from which Mr. Wright set out to visit the new volcano, is surrounded by hot springs, petroleum pits, and caverns of sulphur which still smoke; and about five centuries ago it was entirely destroyed by an eruption. Though the town has been renewed, it has never recovered its former prosperity. Its population, which was 60,000 at the time of the awful catastrophe, now scarcely amounts to 18,000.

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## IMPROVED SYSTEM OF BEE MANAGEMENT.

There is no branch of rural economy connected with more agreeable associations than that of bee management. The proverbially industrious habits of the insect, and its extreme ingenuity in the construction of its domicile, and the deposition of its treasures, are such as to excite the admiration of the most unobservant. The common necessity of destroying the stock, in order to obtain the produce of their labours, has been always matter of regret. Many plans have been hitherto devised for the purpose of obtaining the honey without the destruction of the bees, but they have only been attended with partial success. The object has, however, been latterly and more perfectly attained by Mr. Nutt, a practical apiarian of Lincolnshire, whose system of management has given this branch of rural economy an importance and value of which it was not before considered susceptible, both in the greater productiveness of the bees, and the much superior quality of the honey.

The first part of Mr. Nutt's plan of operation is to leave the hive, into which the stock is introduced, untouched. When it is filled with honey (the contents of which are to be reserved for the use of the bees), the capacity of the hive is increased, by the addition of another box to the side, communicating with the hive by apertures, which give free admission to the bees in all parts of the box,

The next important object in Mr. Nutt's system is to ensure a regulated and uniform temperature in this portion of the hive, without diminishing the temperature of that which contains the stock. The ventilation necessary for this purpose is effected by the means of a perforated tin tube, extending down to a considerable distance from the top into the hive, and connected with an aperture at the bottom, which may be partly or wholly closed by a tin slide, thus modifying the circulation of the air and consequent degree of temperature. The temperature of this side box, which is indicated by a thermometer introduced into the tube, ought to be 70°, which is the natural temperature of the working hive; but, in that which contains the stock, a temperature of 90° is necessary, as well for the incubation of the queen bee, as the maturity of the young. The parent hive is, then, as well the residence of the queen bee as the nursery of the young, whilst the side boxes are but additional storehouses for the reception of the superfluous honey, which may be taken away without impoverishing the stock, or robbing them of their winter sustenance.

When the thermometer placed in the side box rapidly rises to 90° or 100°, the necessity of again providing the bees with fresh room is indicated; and this is effected by establishing another box on the opposite side of the hive. The bees, finding an increase of room, will readily recommence their labours in this new apartment.

Then follows, in Mr. Nutt's system, the operation of separating the bees from this second hive. This is effected by the ventilator, by which the internal temperature of the hive may be reduced to that of the external atmosphere; and when, on the approach of night, the bees, recoiling from the cool air, go back into the middle box, the connexion between the two may be closed, and the full hive withdrawn, without the imprisonment or destruction of a single labourer. The same arrangements are to be again renewed, as the bees continue their successful labours. In this system no provision is made for swarming, which cannot occur under this arrangement, the emigration of a part of the stock being only occasioned by a want of room in which the bees may pursue their labours.

The honey furnished under this system of management is found to be far superior both in quality and quantity to that obtained under any other arrangements. The honey and wax are as white as refined sugar. This superiority in quality it owes as well to the modified temperature at which the bees secrete their products, as to its total exemption from all extraneous animal and vegetable matters, and, in particular, from the pollen or bee-bread, which is taken in considerable quantities into the stock-hive for the support of the young. This superiority of the honey is only equalled by the quantity of the supply: the usual annual supply from one stock is about one hundred-weight of honey; whilst, in the course of one season, Mr. Nutt has procured the large quantity of 296 lbs. This increase in quantity is owing to the excellent disposition of the arrangements, by which the industrious efforts of the bees are never retarded, nor their strength weakened at the time when the fruits and flowers most abound from which their treasures are obtained.

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*Thrushes.*—A Correspondent mentions that thrushes get at the snails on which they feed by taking them into their beak, and hammering the shells against a stone until they are broken. He states that a neighbour of his brought up a thrush from the nest and kept it many years. It was so tame as to be allowed to fly about the room, when, though it had never seen any other thrush, its chief amusement was to take a silver thimble in its beak, and endeavour, with great earnestness and perseverance, to break it, as the wild bird breaks the shells of snails, by hammering it violently against any hard substance.

## LOUVAIN

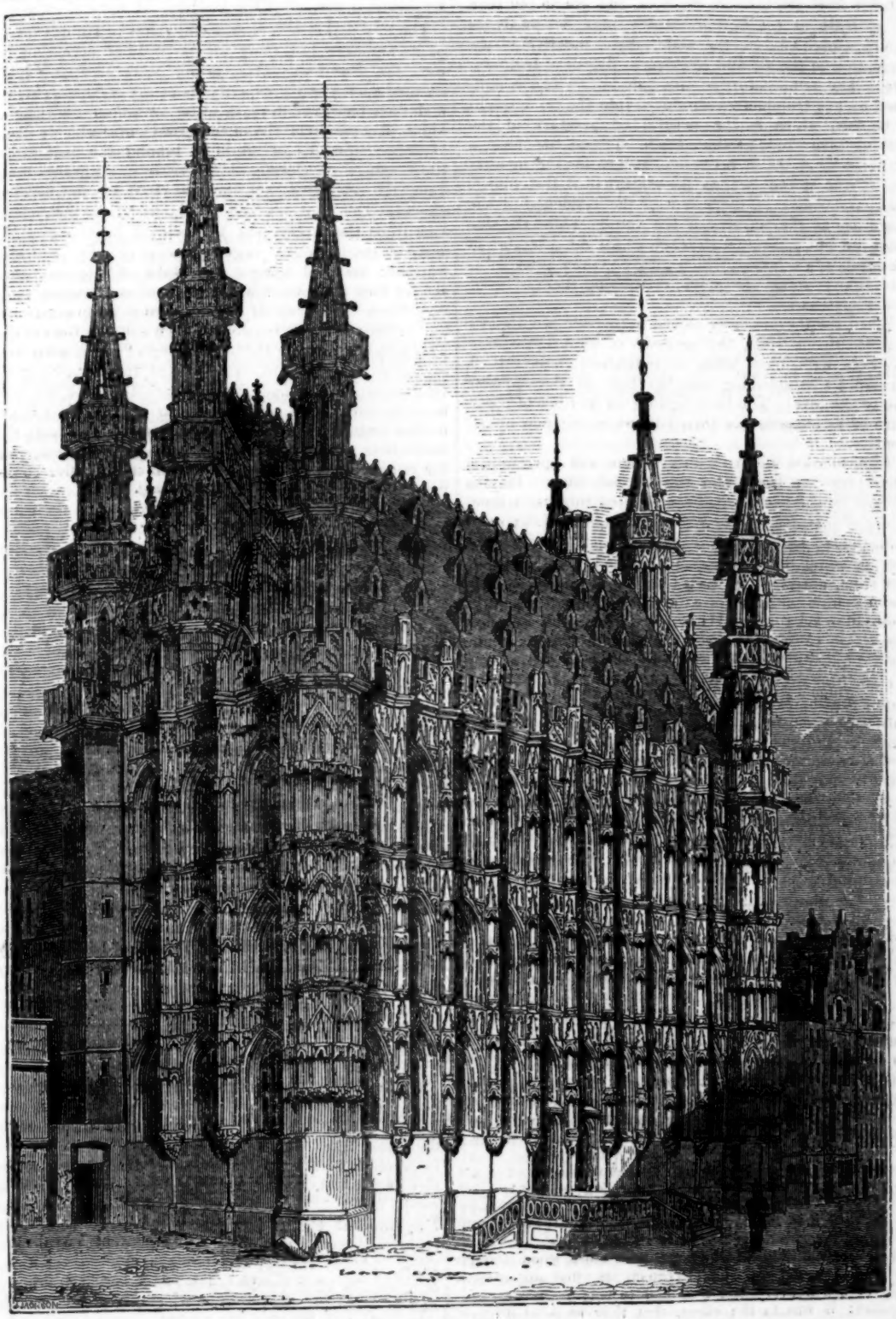
LOUVAIN, a town of South Brabant in the Netherlands, is one of those cities which are now greatly declined from their ancient prosperity and importance; and which continue to indicate the difference by very magnificent public buildings, and by an extent which the existing population cannot occupy.

The city makes a very doubtful claim to Julius Cæsar for its founder; but there are no distinct notices of it until the year 885. It is certain, however, that it had attained such great prosperity about the commencement of the fourteenth century, as to be considered the richest and most commercial city of the Low Countries. It then contained upwards of 200,000 inhabitants, including 4000 houses of clothiers. There is a tradition, that when the operatives left their work, it was notified by the great bell, that mothers might withdraw their children from the streets lest they should be trampled to death in the throng of eager passengers. In 1380 the workmen revolted against the Duke of Brabant, and among their acts on that occasion it is recorded that they threw seventeen of the numerous magistrates of the city from the windows of the then existing town-hall. This rebellion led to the emigration of great numbers of the weavers to this country, and they may be considered as having laid the foundation of our woollen manufacture. This affair seems to have given a blow to the prosperity of Louvain which it never entirely recovered. At present the town is much decayed, and the population is not supposed to exceed 25,000. The most important article of industry is beer, of which considerable quantities are annually exported: there are also from ten to twelve lace manufactories.

In its prosperous state, Louvain was not only distinguished for its wealth but its learning. The celebrated University was founded, in 1426, by John IV., Duke of Brabant. It produced several eminent men, and was endowed by the Popes with high privileges. It had forty-three colleges, a fine library, a botanical garden, and an anatomical theatre. In the sixteenth century it contained not less than 6000 students. Having become extinct during the French revolution it was restored as a lyceum, and after the separation of Belgium from France was re-established as an university. The present number of students does not exceed 580.

The magnificent building which is represented in our wood-cut was erected in the middle of the fifteenth century. The first stone was laid in 1448, and it was finished in 1463. The cost is stated, in the description of Louvain in the Flemish language, to have been 32,900 guilders, about equal to 3000*l.*,—a large sum in those days. The engraving will furnish a more accurate notion of the exterior of this fine town-hall than any description. The three tiers of windows, the gallery above the upper tier, the lofty roof with its windows rising one above another, the corner towers and pinnacles, and the still higher pinnacles of the centre, are the most characteristic features of the edifice. The sculpture of the stone-work is exceedingly rich and elaborate. The apartments within are of fine proportions, and are richly decorated with tapestry and pictures. Altogether the Town-hall of Louvain in one of the most interesting monuments of a period when a large and liberal expenditure upon objects calculated to elevate the taste was thought, and properly so, to be of public utility. While the great ecclesiastical edifices of England and France and the Netherlands were alike constructed with the object of filling the mind with those sublime images which belong to the service of religion, the other public buildings, such as the Town-hall of Louvain, were intended to impress the spectator with a feeling of respect for the dignity of the laws, and to associate ideas of splendour with the seat of justice.

The former commercial prosperity of Louvain justified this display of magnificence in the place where her rich burghers and magistrates arbitrated between contending citizens, and punished the violaters of the public peace. It is a monument, therefore, of those times when the rich and powerful inhabitants of great trading towns were enabled to make displays of wealth and magnificence which might vie with the grandeur of princes; —and by their collective influence and authority, often to resist that oppression which the feudal lords still exercised. Such monuments belong to the history of civilization.



[Town-hall of Louvain.]

*Curious Time-piece.* A Correspondent having seen a notice of the clock of Lubeck, in No. 31 of the 'Penny Magazine,' has been induced to send us an account of a curious time-piece in the possession of a private gentleman at Exeter. It stands ten feet high, is five feet wide, and weighs half a ton. It strikes the hours and quarters, and has a perpetual almanac, which has an exclusive movement for leap year, requiring to be regulated once in 100 years, and the principal wheel of which revolves but once in four years. On a plate in the centre of the dial is seen the sun in his course through the heavens, as he appears to us. The circle which he makes is beautifully described in the changes of the seasons, by the receding or advancing of the horizon as the days lengthen or shorten. Underneath this is a lunar calendar, exhibiting the moon in her different phases; and an organ playing various tunes. There is also a belfry, in which are six ringers, ringing changes on as many bells; a variety of other figures are also shown in motion, playing instruments, beating time, &c. The ingenious artist, by whom this work was contrived and executed, died poor, and in a workhouse. The piece lay by for many years, no artist being found capable of repairing it, until it lately fell into the hands of a watch and clock maker of Exeter.

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*Morning Meetings.*—The Spaniards have a species of public amusement (though it deserves a far better name), which consists in the superior class of the male inhabitants collecting, between ten and eleven in the forenoon, in some public promenade or open space. In Madrid the favourite place of meeting is the Puerta del Sol: in Toledo, the Zocodover; in Seville, the Plaza de Santo Domingo; and in Granada, the Plaza de Vivarrambla and the Zacatin. These assemblages bear a striking resemblance to the ancient forum and ἀγορα: the subjects discussed at them are not merely private concerns, but the leading topics of the day; and the groups who take part in the latter, handle the matter in debate with a degree of talent and ardour, as well as unsparing freedom, which, however incredible it may seem, are rarely to be found under any other sky. These morning meetings are so dearly prized by the Spaniard, that I have heard many declare,—and they were men who had visited the gayest capitals in Europe, and were otherwise over-partial, as I conceived, in their estimate of the superiority of foreign countries,—that all the recreations and enjoyments which London, Vienna, and Paris afforded, could not make amends for the loss of the brief matin-hour which they had been accustomed to while away at the Puerta del Sol. But these assemblages carry, intrinsically, far greater weight with them than what appears upon the surface. Any person capable of appreciating the character and bias of the ever-changing crowds which collect, and disperse to collect again, at the Puerta, needs no other key to the course which public affairs are likely to take, and will find himself seldom at fault in his conjectures.—*Journal of Education for January.*

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*An Election.*—(Extract from a private letter from Greece.)—"Before I quitted Athens, I had the opportunity of witnessing the ceremony of a popular assembly, called together for the purpose of electing new Demogerontes. About three hundred Greeks met on a grassplot, in front of a church in the middle of the town; what are called the Archons or Plutocrats, who came into consequence during the days of Turkish sway, placed themselves and their cagle-eyes in the centre of the meeting. After discussing the question, whether the naturalized citizens, or owners of lands and houses who have migrated to this spot from Europe, and other parts of Greece, should be admitted to vote, and deciding it in the negative, they proceeded to debate upon the subject of allowing such citizens and any other strangers to be present on the occasion: and this was determined in the affirmative. A general shout next warned the multitude to lay themselves down on the ground, in order that the successive speakers should be distinctly seen and heard from the post which was assigned to them in the centre of the assembly. One of the citizens then recited an oath, to which every one qualified to vote made solemn response; it was to the effect, that they repudiated the influence of all ties of kindred, bribery, and every other corrupt motive, and pledged themselves that no other consideration should weigh with them in giving their votes, but the public interest. This done, the archons submitted the names of eight or ten candidates, out of whom three were to be elected Demogerontes; and the assembly, as each name was proclaimed, said "content" or "non-content." Where the votes were dubious, the question was decided by a show of hands. But the business did not end without a split; for some of the archons, who were disappointed in carrying the election in favour of their own friends, withdrew in anger from the meeting, and were followed by their adherents. The remainder of the electors, however, went on with the list of candidates until a final choice was made, and then proceeded to the business of voting. Instead of vases, they made use of common glasses, over which a piece of paper with an aperture in it, bearing the candidate's name, had been fastened. These glasses were placed upon a table in the middle of the church, under the safe keeping of three priests; each citizen went into the church singly, had his name recorded in a register, and received three beans, which he deposited in three of the glasses. The latter were ultimately opened, and the beans of each candidate counted; the result being determined by relative majority. By the time that all this had been transacted, afternoon was at hand, and the assembly had dwindled down to one-fourth of its original numbers. You must not be surprised at the injustice, which was done to the *paroiks*, or strangers, who form by far the most affluent and well-educated portion of the present inhabitants of Athens, by excluding them from all participation in such proceedings as these. It was the besetting sin of the ancient Greeks, and has descended with increased virulence to the modern, for every one to prefer his native town and its local interests to the welfare not only of any neighbouring town or province, but of his native country."—*Journal of Education for January.*

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### THIS IS LIFE.

Like to the falling of a star,
Or as the flights of eagles are,
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,
Or silver drops of morning dew;
Or like a wind that chafes the flood,
Or bubbles which on water stood:
Even such is man, whose borrowed light
Is straight called in, and paid to-night.

The wind blows out, the bubble dies,
The spring entomb'd in autumn lies,
The dew dries up, the star is shot,
The flight is past,—and man forgot.

HENRY KING. Died, 1669.

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## SITE OF A CONVALESCENT ESTABLISHMENT IN THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS.

AMONG the Europeans in India, the frequent returns home for the recovery of health, which is affected so much by the warm climate of Hindostan, had long been felt as a great public and private inconvenience; and some means by which the necessity might be superseded of yearly invaliding and sending home a large body of soldiers was felt to be a desideratum. Under such circumstances the salubrity and genial temperature of the Nilgherries, (Blue Mountains), one of the principal branches of the western Ghauts, seems first to have suggested the idea of forming establishments in the mountain regions to which the sick and convalescent might repair. Another such establishment has been formed at Laudour, in the Himalaya mountains; and we believe there are others. The result has been found fully to answer the expectations which led to such establishments; and not only has a great waste of time and money been prevented, but the necessity has in a great

measure ceased of exposing the sick to the inconvenience and danger of the long and wearisome voyage from India to England. A correspondent has furnished us with an extract from a letter, written by a medical gentleman from the establishment in the Himalaya, part of which we shall lay before our readers. It does not state much concerning the establishments formed there, but it furnishes information with regard to a region of which little is known in this country, and not much even in India.

"The place from whence I write is the first range of the grand chain of the Himalaya. It is in about 36° 27′ north latitude and 78° east longitude. It was selected about three years since*, from its proximity to the plains, (seven miles off,) as the most eligible site for a convalescent depôt; and experience having already established its sanative character, so that every spot of ground capable of building upon is taken up for public buildings. These salubrious and delightful hills had been fourteen years in the possession of the British government before the beneficial purposes to which they were applicable appear to have been perceived. The summit of Laudour is about 7800 feet above the level of the sea; and, of course, every modification of climate from this height to the highest peak, 27,000 feet, may be found; but I shall more particularly speak of what I have myself experienced.

"During the hottest season, which is just passed, the thermometer has never exceeded 67°, whereas, in the plains, it is rarely under 90°, in a good house, until October. The mean temperature here, by meteorological observation, is said to be 50°; and, as there are so few degrees of variation in the different seasons, I should say it is the finest climate in the world for invalids of every class. About 200 soldiers are annually sent hither from the different king's regiments; the greatest proportion of whom recover.

"As a further proof of the benignity of this climate, may be adduced an abundance of every kind of game, such as woodcocks, partridges, pheasants, &c., all of the most splendid plumage, at the bottom of the dells, together with a great variety of deer, leopards, hyenas and bears, whilst the tiger is very rarely seen. All the European fruits thrive to great perfection; and very many of them, as the apricot, currant, raspberry, &c., grow wild. A botanical garden promises well, even in its infancy; and the gentleman in charge of it states, that all the plants indigenous to temperate climates thrive exceedingly well. Much to my surprise, these almost perpendicular mountains are highly cultivated, and, where irrigation is practicable, rice, beans, peas, potatoes, and every kind of corn, are seen to flourish. The effect is very beautiful at a distance; and the eye is in every direction relieved by groups of magnificent oak, walnut, and fir-trees; and, though last, not least to be admired, the rhododendron.

"The male inhabitants of this region are a good-featured race, but the women are perfectly hideous; and, as ablution is an operation not often performed in the course of a life, their persons are very offensive from filth and vermin. But as a contrast to these disgusting circumstances, they are a lively merry people, and suffer hardships and fatigue without a murmur; nor are theft or murder known among them. I have remarked goitres to be a very common disease, as it is, I believe, in all mountainous countries, particularly Switzerland and the Tyrol†.

"The roads are mere footpaths in those regions, and quite frightful to a person unaccustomed to mountain travelling. But the eye soon gets accustomed to such circumstances, and I now gallop about on my gaout (hill pony) with as much confidence as I do on a horse in the plains. These animals are brought from Tatary, and resemble the Shetland ponies, but show a great deal more blood and symmetry. They are amazingly sagacious, and so conscious that a false step would hurl them to destruction, that they manifest the utmost caution in difficult places; and the traveller is quite at the mercy of his little quadruped, and must not interfere with him. An accident happens occasionally, but no life has been lost since the establishment commenced; which I account for by the circumstance that the beast always inclines towards the bank when he slips.

"The periodical rains have now regularly set in, and will, as I am informed, continue until September. We have sometimes terrific thunder-storms with hail; and in such a storm, a short time since, three of the natives were killed by the lightning. The weather is disagreeably damp; but the thermometer continues steady at 67°, and never exceeds 80°,—an equability of temperature not to be surpassed in any part of the world."

* The letter is dated July 13, 1830.

† Some of our readers may need to be informed that *goitres* are swellings or wens in the fore part of the throat, which are not incompatible with generally good health. They are very prevalent among mountaineers; and the cause is still undiscovered, though commonly attributed to the water which the people drink.

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

This powerful, intelligent, and docile animal, which in its unmixed state is certainly the noblest of the canine tribe, is a native of the country the name of which it bears, and may be considered as a distinct race. Its introduction into this country is of comparatively recent date; and the fine animal known to us by the name of Newfoundland dog is only half-bred, and of size inferior to the dog in its native state, when it measures about six feet and a half from the nose to the extremity of the tail, the length of which is two feet. In its own country it only barks when greatly irritated, and then with a manifestly painful effort, producing a sound which is described as particularly harsh. Its exemption from hydrophobia in Newfoundland appears to be well authenticated.

The dog is employed by the settlers as a beast of burthen in drawing wood from the interior to the coast. Three or four of them yoked to a sledge will draw two or three hundred weight of wood with great facility for several miles. In this service they are said to be so sagacious and willing as to need no driver or guide; but, having delivered their burden, return without delay to the woods in the expectation of receiving some food in recompense for their labour. We see, indeed, in this country, that, from the activity of his disposition, the Newfoundland dog delights in being employed; and the pride of being useful makes him take uncommon pleasure in carrying in his mouth for miles baskets and other articles, of which, as well from that satisfaction as from the fidelity of his character, it would be dangerous for a stranger to dispute possession with him. In many respects he may be considered as a valuable substitute for the mastiff as a house dog.

The Newfoundland dog is easily satisfied in his food. He is fond of fish, whether fresh or dried; and salt meat or fish is more acceptable to him than to most other animals, as well as boiled potatoes and cabbage. When hungry, however, he has not very strong scruples about appropriating such flesh or fish as falls in his way, or even of destroying poultry or sheep. For the blood of the latter animal he has much appetite, and sucks it from the throat without feeding on the carcass.

It is well known that the Newfoundland dog can swim very fast, dive with ease, and bring things up from the bottom of the water. Other dogs can swim,

but not so willingly, or so well. This superiority he owes to the structure of the foot, which is semi-webbed between the toes; thus presenting an extended surface to press away the water from behind, and then collapsing when it is drawn forward, previous to making the stroke. This property, joined to much courage, and a generous disposition, enables this dog to render those important services in the preservation of endangered life, of which such numerous instances are recorded, and of which our engraving affords an illustration.

The following anecdotes of the Newfoundland dog are taken from Captain Brown's interesting 'Anecdotes of Dogs.'

"A Newfoundland dog, kept at the ferry-house at Worcester, was famous for having, at different periods, saved three persons from drowning; and so fond was he of the water, that he seemed to consider any disinclination for it in other dogs as an insult on the species. If a dog was left on the bank by its master, and, in the idea that it would be obliged to follow the boat across the river, which is but narrow, stood yelping at the bottom of the steps, unwilling to take the water, the Newfoundland veteran would go down to him, and with a satirical growl, as if in mockery, take him by the back of the neck and throw him into the stream."

"A native of Germany, fond of travelling, was pursuing his course through Holland, accompanied by a large Newfoundland dog. Walking one evening on a high bank, which formed one side of a dike, or canal, so common in that country, his foot slipped, and he was precipitated into the water, and, being unable to swim, he soon became senseless. When he recovered his recollection, he found himself in a cottage on the opposite side of the dike to that from which he had fallen, surrounded by peasants, who had been using the means so generally practised in that country for restoring animation. The account given by the peasants was, that one of them returning home from his labour, observed, at a considerable distance, a large dog in the water swimming and dragging, and sometimes pushing, some thing which he seemed to have great difficulty in supporting, but which he at length succeeded in getting into a small creek on the opposite side to that on which the men were.

"When the animal had pulled what he had hitherto supported, as far out of the water as he was able, the peasant discovered that it was the body of a man. The dog, having shaken himself, began industriously to lick the hands and face of his master, while the rustic hastened across; and, having obtained assistance, the body was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where the usual means of resuscitation soon restored him to sense and recollection. Two very considerable bruises, with the marks of teeth, appeared, one on his shoulder, the other on the nape of the neck; whence it was presumed that the faithful animal first seized his master by the shoulder, and swam with him in this manner for some time; but that his sagacity had prompted him to let go his hold, and shift his grasp to the neck, by which he had been enabled to support the head out of the water. It was in the latter position that the peasant observed the dog making his way along the dike, which it appeared he had done for a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile. It is therefore probable that this gentleman owed his life as much to the sagacity as to the fidelity of his dog."

[Newfoundland Dog.]

*** The Office of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge is at 59, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.
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